






## Kindness Habitat Story


 God wants us to live in a beautiful habitat, a place where all feel loved, safe and whole. And God calls us to be partners in that creation.

 Jesus says that this amazing place exists on earth every day. He calls it the kingdom of heaven making us think at first it must be far away. But Jesus says that kingdom is right now and he uses ordinary things in life and nature to help us see the special kindness of God.

 In one story Jesus uses a tiny seed to say, look, this tiny seed may look like nothing. But when an ordinary person plants it, it becomes something else – a big bush, even a tree! And not only that, it becomes a nesting ground for flocks of birds!

 God's kindness is planted in us and in the world. Some days that is easy to believe. Other days we need help and reminders. Across a sacred season called Lent we are invited to do some practices that can help us be more aware of the kindness of God and how we nurture that seed.

 Another story in the Bible describes a tiny mustard seed. It says that this small thing that we might ignore or neglect is actually a source for something powerful. It can even move a mountain! This gives us hope and training in paying attention to small things. This is called having faith.

 During Lent, Holy Week and Easter we will read stories, do prayer practices and grow in faith together. We will learn more about being God's workers creating a Kindness Habitat in the world.



## Kindness Habitat Practice

Let's see what can happen to us  
when we are open to the mysterious growing spirit of God.

Let's practice building a good habitat.  
~A good habitat in our minds and hearts  
~A good habitat where we live.

**Step 1:** Kindness Habitat Prayer *see back page*

**Step 2:** Bible Study *see next page*

**Step 3:** Time with others who are committed to practicing kindness  
*All invited to Sundays & Midweek gatherings at church*

## Kindness Habitat Schedule & Study

### \*Gospel of Matthew

Event	Seed/Text in Mt.	Habitat/ <i>Extra reading</i>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Feb 14 3 Events	4:00-5:30 Drive thru 5:30-6:15 Supper 6:30-7:15 Gathering	Ashes remind us that we are frail humans but oh-so-loved by God. Kindness Habitat Study begins
<b>Sunday Feb 18</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>Mountain Habitat</b> Mt 17:14-21	Two mountains, two very different vibes! <i>All Mt chap 17</i>
<b>Sunday Feb 25</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>Forest Habitat</b> Mt 7:1-5, 15-20	Logs and trees: Some good, some not so good. <i>All Mt chap 7</i>
<b>Wednesday Feb 28</b> Meal & Gathering	5:30-6:15 Supper 6:30-7:15 Gathering	For all ages. Study, pray, play. Tacos & text for next Sunday.
<b>Sunday March 3</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>Swamp Habitat</b> Mt 10:7-14, 16	Having snake-like wisdom helps in some terrains. <i>All Mt chap 10</i>
<b>Sunday March 10</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>Rocky Habitat</b> Mt 16:13-19, 24-27	In rugged service & sacrifice we find reward. <i>All Mt chap 16</i>
<b>Wednesday Mar 13</b> Meal & Gathering	5:30-6:15 Supper 6:30-7:15 Gathering	For all ages. Study, pray, play. Sloppy Joes & text for Sunday.
<b>Sunday March 17</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>Ocean Habitat</b> Mt 13:31-32, 44-45, 51-53	Jesus uses parables to reveal God's pearls. <i>All Mt chapter 13</i>
<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Sunday March 24</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>Habitat for Humans</b> Mt 21:1-11, 12 22:34-40, 46	Jesus creates a safe habitat for others through challenging teaching. <i>All of Mt 21 &amp; 22</i>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Thurs March 28</b> Meal & Gathering	<b>Cave Habitat</b> 5:30-6:15 Supper 6:30-7:15 Gathering	We will take turns reading the sacred story of the journey to the cross. <i>Mt chapters 26 &amp; 27</i>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY!</b> <b>March 31</b>	<b>God's Habitat</b> 7:00 Early Bird + 10:30 Worship	Jesus creates new habitat within us and the world. We are loved, safe and whole. <i>Mt 28:1-10</i>
<b>Bird Sunday</b> April 7 10:30 Worship	<b>Bird Sanctuary</b> Mt 6:25-34	We will do something fun the Sunday after Easter! <i>All Mt chapter 6</i>

**\*Can you figure out the connection between Habitat & Text?**

**Gatherings** are for all ages, both worship on Sundays and midweek

**Mid-week Meals** are free & will have something for picky eaters, too.

**We have fun** studying the text together & doing prayer practices.

*All Are Truly Welcome at Discovery Presbyterian Church Always.*

## Kindness Habitat Prayer

*God of Kindness, thank you for who you are.*

*You are love, safety and wholeness.*

*Thank you for kind things today. [pause ...]*

*God of Kindness, I trust you to heal me.*

*You love me for who I am and draw out who I can be. Let me be honest with you and share where I feel hurt or need kindness. [...]*

*God of Kindness, help me know your mystery.*

*I am soil where the seed of your mercy grows. You are near. Grow your mystery of faith and kindness in me now. [...]*

*God of Kindness, make me your habitat.*

*Take who I am and make me more than I imagined. Let me be your beautiful tree where others find rest. [...]*

*God of Kindness, give me courage*

*When things are not kind, help me. Take away doubt and help me trust your plan of goodness and love. Help me know you more deeply and understand my call to serve you more completely.[...]*

*God of Kindness, help us work together.*

*Thank you for prayer, learning, conversation and church.*

*Deepen our discipleship this season.*

*Use this sacred season to create your Kindness Habitat everywhere.*

*In Jesus's name, Amen.*

### Worship in a Sacred Environment

**Sundays 10:30** onsite, online or anytime via FB & website recordings.

**All ages, All Welcome** Come early for choir & activity. Fellowship & treats after.

### Midweek Study & Gathering

**Study one text a week** on your own or join special midweek gatherings:

February 14, February 28, March 13 & March 28 *see chart in this brochure*

5:30-6:15 Meals; 6:30-7:15 Group Conversation/Spirituality

Plus: Zoom Bible Study 6:30 PM 2/21, 3/6, 3/20 & Friday 1:30 in-person study.

**Kindness 2023-2024** Discovery's theme for the year.

May this way of God flourish among us all!



### Discovery Presbyterian Church

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*Take Another Look at Church!*



## Practice kindness, change the world Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2024

***An invitation to everyone to practice kindness this season***

*At home*

*At work*

*At school or play*

*In your own headspace*

*In community*



*Tips & practices in this brochure*